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Workplace Injuries and Illnesses in the Southeast, 2000

A total of 1.2 million nonfatal injuries and illnesses occurred to private industry workers in eleven southeastern[1] states according to a survey by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that around 22 percent of the nation's work-related injuries and illnesses occurred in the Southeast, about the same as the proportion of private industry workers (23 percent) employed in these states. Nationwide, there were 5.7 million injuries and illnesses reported during 2000 which resulted in an incidence rate of 6.1 cases per 100 full-time workers, down from 6.3 in the previous year.

The incidence rate, or frequency of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time equivalent workers, in the Southeast ranged from 8.3 in Kentucky to 4.6 in Maryland. (See table 1.) Seven states had rates below the national average in 2000--Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. (State rates of injury and illness are influenced by a number of factors including the mix of industries located in a state and the number of hours worked by people employed in those industries.) Incidence rates in most Southeastern states were about unchanged over the year with two exceptions. Alabama recorded a decline in its rate, and Florida's showed an increase. However, between 1996 and 2000, the most recent five year period, incidence rates dropped in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee, while edging down in Virginia. In the three years data has been gathered in West Virginia, its incidence rate has also edged down—from 8.0 in 1998 to 7.0 in 2000.

Injury and illness incidence rates are calculated based on the number of reported cases and the hours worked by all employees in a calendar year. Florida, the state with the highest employment level in the region, also had the largest number of occupational injury and illness cases at 288,200. (See table A.) Although employment increased by more than 554,000 in the eleven southeastern states in 2000, total cases fell by almost 41,000 (-3.3 percent). Two states recorded declines in the number of cases over the year-- Alabama (-16,700) and North Carolina (-13,500).

[1] The 2000 Southeast release has been expanded to include all of the South Atlantic Census Division (Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia) and the East South Central Census Division (Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee). Workplace injury and illness data for the District of Columbia and Mississippi are not available.

Table A. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for the United States and southeastern states in private industry, 2000 (in thousands)

Location	1999		2000	
	Average annual employment [1]	Total cases	Average annual employment [1]	Total cases
United States	107,611.8	5,707.2	110,064.9	5,650.1
Alabama	1,538.2	101.4	1,541.4	84.7
Delaware	350.9	16.7	355.8	15.9
Florida	5,887.3	285.8	6,086.4	288.2
Georgia	3,220.2	148.9	3305.2	143.9
Kentucky	1,455.5	102.9	1,478.5	103.0
Maryland	1,921.1	86.3	1,973.1	78.4
North Carolina	3,214.8	160.0	3,258.5	146.5
South Carolina	1,488.9	71.9	1,507.9	69.5
Tennessee	2,254.8	129.7	2,288.5	128.4
Virginia	2,736.6	121.4	2,824.2	126.7
West Virginia	548.1	33.9	551.4	32.7

[1] Employment is expressed as an annual average and is derived primarily from the BLS-State Covered Employment and Wages program.

Industry rates

Among goods-producing industries nationwide, manufacturing had the highest incidence rate in 2000 at 9.0 cases per 100 full-time workers. In the Southeast, incidence rates in manufacturing ranged from 13.5 in Kentucky to 6.3 in Maryland. (See table 2.) Of the eleven participating states, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia reported incidence rates higher than the national average for injuries and illnesses in manufacturing. Incidence rates in this industry may vary among states due to differences in the type of manufacturing occurring in individual states.

The construction industry also had a relatively high national incidence rate at 8.3 cases per 100 workers. In the Southeast, three states—Kentucky, West Virginia and Florida—had incidence rates in construction of 8.0 or more. The remaining states ranged from 7.4 cases per 100 workers in Maryland to 5.2 in North Carolina.

Within the service-producing sector, transportation and public utilities reported an incidence rate of 6.9 cases per 100 workers at the national level. Rates for this industry in the Southeast ranged from 7.7 cases per 100 workers in Kentucky to 4.6 in Georgia. Nationally, wholesale and retail trade recorded an incidence rate of 5.9, while in the Southeast, rates for this industry ranged from 7.1 cases per 100 workers in Delaware to 4.5 in North Carolina. (See Technical Note for definitions of industry sectors.)

Lost workday rates

For the nation, the total lost workday rate (the incidence of injuries and illnesses that were sufficiently serious to require recuperation away from work or restricted duties at work, or both) was 3.0 cases per 100 workers in 2000, the same as in 1999. Among the reporting states in the Southeast region, the incidence rate of lost workday cases ranged from 4.4 cases per 100 workers in Kentucky to 2.3 in Maryland.

Nationally, manufacturing's lost workday rate was 4.5 cases per 100 workers in 2000. Among southeastern states, six states had a lost workday rate in manufacturing below that for the nation--Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Technical Note

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses is a Federal/State program in which employer reports are collected from about 176,000 private industry establishments and processed by state agencies cooperating with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational injury and illness data for coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for railroad activities were provided by the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration. The survey measures nonfatal injuries and illnesses only. The survey excludes the self-employed; farms with fewer than 11 employees; private households; and employees in Federal agencies. National estimates also exclude employees in state and local government agencies. Some states (including Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia) produce separate estimates combining private industry and state and local government agencies.

Specific state data are available from the following southeastern state agencies participating with BLS in the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

State agencies	**Telephone**
Alabama Department of Labor	(334) 242-3460
Delaware Department of Labor	(302) 761-8223
Florida Division of Workers' Compensation	(850) 922-8953
Georgia Department of Labor	(404) 679-0687, ext. 113
Kentucky Labor Cabinet	(502) 564-3070, ext.277
Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation	(410) 767-2356
North Carolina Department of Labor	(919) 733-2607
South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation	(803) 734-4298
Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development	(615) 741-1749
Virginia Department of Labor and Industry	(804) 786-6427
West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs	(304) 558-7890

The survey provides estimates of the number and frequency (incidence rates) of workplace injuries and illnesses based on logs kept by employers during the year. These records reflect not only the year's injury and illness experience, but also the employer's understanding of which cases are work related under current recordkeeping guidelines of the U.S. Department of Labor. The number of injuries and illnesses reported in any given year also can be influenced by the level of economic activity, working conditions and work practices, worker experience and training, and the number of hours worked.

The survey measures the number of new work-related illness cases which are recognized, diagnosed, and reported during the year. Some conditions (for example, long-term latent illnesses caused by exposure to carcinogens) often are difficult to relate to the workplace and are not adequately recognized and reported. These long-term latent illnesses are believed to be understated in the survey's illness measures. In contrast, the overwhelming majority of the reported new illnesses are those that are easier to directly relate to workplace activity (for example, contact dermatitis or carpal tunnel syndrome).

Establishments are classified in industry categories based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget. The survey estimates

of occupational injuries and illnesses are based on a scientifically selected probability sample, rather than a census of the entire population. Because the data are based on a sample survey, the injury and illness estimates probably differ from the figures that would be obtained from all units covered by the survey. To determine the precision of each estimate, a standard error was calculated. The standard error defines a range (confidence interval) around the estimate. The approximate 95-percent confidence as a percent of the estimate, or the relative standard error. For example, the 95-percent confidence interval for an incidence rate of 6.5 per 100 full-time workers with a relative standard error of 1.0 percent would be 6.5 plus or minus 2 percent (2 times 1.0 percent) or 6.37 to 6.63. One can be 95 percent confident that the "true" incidence rate falls within the confidence interval. The 2000 incidence rate for all occupational injuries and illnesses of 6.1 per 100 full-time workers in private industry has an estimated relative standard error of about 0.6 percent. A relative standard error was calculated for each estimate from the survey. Relative standard errors for national injury and illness data will be published in a BLS bulletin that is scheduled to be available at a later date. Relative standard errors for state data may be obtained by contacting individual state agencies.

The data also are subject to nonsampling error. The inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, mistakes in recording or coding the data, and definition difficulties are examples of nonsampling error in the survey. Nonsampling errors are not measured. However, BLS has implemented quality assurance procedures to minimize nonsampling error in the survey.

The goods-producing sector consists of the following industry divisions: agriculture, forestry, and fishing; mining; construction; and manufacturing. The service-producing sector includes the following industry divisions: transportation and public utilities; trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and services. BLS has generated estimates of injuries and illnesses combined and of injuries alone for nearly all 2-, 3-, and, for manufacturing, 4-digit private sector industries as defined in the 1987 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual*. We encourage users interested in learning more about occupational safety and health statistics to call our information office at (404) 331-3415. Data for both fatal and nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses are available on the BLS Internet site at http://www.bls.gov/iif/home.htm.

Table 1. Incidence rates 1/ of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by selected case types for the United States and selected southeastern states, private industry, 2/ 1997-2000

Location	Total cases					Lost Workday Cases Total 2/				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
United States	7.4	7.1	6.7	6.3	6.1	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0	3.0
Alabama	8.9	8.1	7.3	7.5	6.2	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.4	3.0
Delaware	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.3	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7
Florida	6.9	6.6	5.9	5.4	5.8	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.8
Georgia	6.1	5.5	5.8	5.4	5.1	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.4
Kentucky	8.7	9.3	8.4	8.4	8.3	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.4
Maryland	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.2	4.6	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.3
North Carolina	6.7	6.3	6.1	5.7	5.3	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6
South Carolina	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.4
Tennessee	8.0	7.6	7.6	6.8	6.6	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.2
Virginia	6.3	6.4	5.7	5.1	5.3	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.6
West Virginia	--	--	8.0	7.2	7.0	--	--	4.0	3.9	3.9

Location	Lost workday cases With days away from work 3/					Cases without lost workdays				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
United States	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.2
Alabama	2.5	2.2	1.9	1.8	1.6	4.9	4.5	3.9	4.1	3.2
Delaware	1.9	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.8	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6
Florida	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	3.7	3.6	3.2	2.9	3.0
Georgia	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.1	2.7
Kentucky	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.5	4.6	5.0	4.3	4.3	3.9
Maryland	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.3
North Carolina	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.4	3.7	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.8
South Carolina	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.4	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.0	3.0
Tennessee	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.4	3.4
Virginia	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.7	3.5	3.5	3.1	2.6	2.6
West Virginia	--	--	3.5	3.4	3.4	--	--	4.0	3.3	3.1

1/ The incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as: (N/EH) x 200,000, where

N = number of injuries and illnesses
EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year
200,000 = base for 100 full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

2/ Total lost workday cases involve days away from work, or days of restricted work activity, or both.

3/ Days-away-from-work cases include those which result in days away from work with or without restricted work activity.

-- Indicates data not available.

Table 2. Incidence rates 1/ of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for the United States and selected southeastern states and private industry divisions, 2000

Industry	United States		Alabama		Delaware		Florida	
	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/
Private Industry	6.1	3.0	6.2	3.0	5.3	2.7	5.8	2.8
Agriculture, forestry, & fishing	7.1	3.6	6.9	2.2	9.2	5.8	6.7	3.2
Mining	4.7	3.0	6.1	4.7	2.9	2.2	3.6	2.5
Construction	8.3	4.1	6.9	3.3	7.1	3.7	8.0	4.0
Manufacturing	9.0	4.5	9.2	4.8	6.6	3.7	7.8	4.3
Transportation and public utilities	6.9	4.3	7.5	4.2	6.4	3.9	6.3	3.8
Wholesale and retail trade	5.9	2.7	5.2	2.2	7.1	2.8	6.0	2.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1.9	0.8	1.9	0.6	1.2	0.6	2.5	0.9
Services	4.9	2.2	4.3	2.0	4.4	2.4	5.2	2.6

Industry	Georgia		Kentucky		Maryland		North Carolina	
	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/
Private Industry	5.1	2.4	8.3	4.4	4.6	2.3	5.3	2.6
Agriculture, forestry, & fishing	6.8	2.8	7.7	3.7	3.5	2.0	9.0	3.9
Mining	2.7	1.6	7.4	5.8	-	-	3.6	2.1
Construction	6.3	3.4	8.8	4.1	7.2	3.6	5.2	2.8
Manufacturing	8.0	3.8	13.5	7.0	6.3	3.5	7.2	3.4
Transportation and public utilities	4.6	3.2	7.7	5.5	5.7	3.6	6.5	3.8
Wholesale and retail trade	5.3	2.3	6.4	3.2	5.3	2.5	4.5	2.0
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.5	1.7	0.6	1.3	0.6
Services	3.4	1.4	6.5	3.2	3.5	1.6	4.6	2.2

Industry	South Carolina		Tennessee		Virginia		West Virginia	
	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/
Private Industry	5.5	2.4	6.6	3.2	5.3	2.6	7.0	3.9
Agriculture, forestry, & fishing	5.3	2.6	4.8	1.5	6.4	2.9	12.2	6.6
Mining	3.0	2.0	5.4	3.7	6.5	4.8	8.2	5.5
Construction	6.3	3.1	6.9	3.4	7.4	3.6	8.7	5.2
Manufacturing	6.6	3.1	9.9	4.9	7.2	4.0	10.4	6.0
Transportation and public utilities	5.7	3.1	7.6	4.8	6.3	4.1	5.0	3.0
Wholesale and retail trade	5.8	2.3	5.5	2.4	5.5	2.4	6.9	3.4
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1.7	0.5	1.6	0.8	1.4	0.6	1.3	0.5
Services	4.2	1.8	5.1	2.3	4.3	2.1	6.0	3.3

1/ The incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as: (N/EH) x 200,000, where
N = number of injuries and illnesses
EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year
200,000 = base for 100 full-time workers
(working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

2/ Total lost workday cases involve days away from work, or days of restricted work activity, or both.

3/ Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

4/ Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor and the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries.

Table 3. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for the United States and selected southeastern states and private industry divisions, 2000

(in thousands)

Industry	United States			Alabama			Delaware		
	2000 Annual average employment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	2000 Annual average employment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	2000 Annual average employment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/
Private Industry 3/	110,064.9	5,650.1	2,752.1	1,541.4	84.7	40.8	355.8	15.9	8.0
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing 3/	1,911.6	107.8	54.2	19.5	1.1	0.4	--	0.3	0.2
Mining 4/	535.7	27.3	17.5	8.4	0.5	0.4	--	--	--
Construction	6,623.0	503.5	249.1	105.5	6.6	3.1	24.5	1.6	0.8
Manufacturing	18,424.6	1,651.4	829.5	360.1	34.0	17.5	58.4	3.7	2.0
Transportation and public utilities 4/	6,792.1	458.6	283.1	92.2	6.9	3.9	15.8	1.0	0.6
Wholesale and retail trade	30,304.7	1,424.2	640.2	445.2	19.5	8.3	91.5	5.0	2.0
Finance, insurance, and real estate	7,436.1	126.7	53.3	85.4	1.5	0.5	50.5	0.6	0.3
Services	37,686.2	1,350.7	625.2	425.0	14.6	6.8	110.8	3.8	2.1

(in thousands)

Industry	Florida			Georgia			Kentucky		
	2000 Annual average employment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	2000 Annual average employment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	2000 Annual average employment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/
Private Industry 3/	6,086.4	288.2	139.4	3,305.2	143.9	68.0	1,478.5	103.0	54.0
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing 3/	155.7	9.3	4.5	45.1	2.6	1.0	16.4	1.0	0.5
Mining 4/	--	0.3	0.2	7.9	0.2	0.1	19.1	1.6	1.3
Construction	391.0	30.2	14.9	203.4	12.4	6.7	89.2	7.0	3.2
Manufacturing	486.0	38.0	20.7	581.4	47.2	22.2	322.0	43.9	22.8
Transportation and public utilities 4/	351.4	21.6	12.9	259.3	12.3	8.5	104.0	7.4	5.4
Wholesale and retail trade	1,757.8	90.7	39.5	975.1	41.4	18.3	429.6	22.0	11.0
Finance, insurance, and real estate	436.3	10.1	3.6	200.2	2.3	0.7	74.0	0.8	0.3
Services	2,477.1	88.0	43.1	998.2	25.4	10.4	421.4	19.2	9.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for the United States and selected southeastern states and private industry divisions, 2000 (Continued)

(in thousands)

Industry	Maryland			North Carolina			South Carolina		
	2000 Annual average employ-ment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	2000 Annual average employ-ment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	2000 Annual average employ-ment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/
Private Industry 3/	1,973.1	78.4	39.0	3,258.5	146.5	70.3	1,507.9	69.5	31.2
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing 3/	23.2	0.7	0.4	53.0	3.8	1.6	20.2	0.9	0.4
Mining 4/	--	--	--	3.9	0.2	0.1	1.8	0.1	(5)
Construction	156.8	10.9	5.4	232.0	11.1	5.9	113.0	6.6	3.2
Manufacturing	180.2	11.4	6.2	783.2	55.4	26.4	345.2	23.1	11.0
Transportation and public utilities 4/	111.7	6.1	3.9	179.6	11.2	6.6	93.1	5.1	2.8
Wholesale and retail trade	556.9	23.4	11.1	894.6	32.3	14.2	439.7	20.5	8.2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	138.4	2.2	0.8	182.2	2.2	1.0	79.3	1.2	0.3
Services	793.8	23.6	11.1	930.0	30.4	14.5	413.2	12.1	5.2

(in thousands)

Industry	Tennessee			Virginia			West Virginia		
	2000 Annual average employ-ment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	2000 Annual average employ-ment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/	2000 Annual average employ-ment 1/	Total cases	Total lost workday cases 2/
Private Industry 3/	2,288.5	128.4	62.4	2,824.2	126.7	63.1	551.4	32.7	18.2
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing 3/	19.4	0.8	0.2	37.3	1.8	0.8	4.3	0.4	0.2
Mining 4/	4.1	0.2	0.2	10.0	0.6	0.4	20.4	1.7	1.1
Construction	125.8	8.7	4.3	210.1	13.9	6.7	33.6	2.4	1.4
Manufacturing	503.6	50.5	24.9	388.6	27.8	15.4	80.7	8.4	4.9
Transportation and public utilities 4/	174.6	12.6	8.0	179.5	11.2	7.3	34.2	1.8	1.1
Wholesale and retail trade	643.6	28.9	12.8	769.7	32.8	14.2	164.3	9.0	4.5
Finance, insurance, and real estate	128.4	2.0	0.9	186.9	2.4	1.1	26.8	0.3	0.1
Services	686.5	24.8	11.0	1,035.5	36.3	17.3	186.5	8.8	4.8

1/ Employment is expressed as an annual average and is derived primarily from the BLS-State Covered Employment and Wages program.
2/ Total lost workday cases involve days away from work, days of restricted work activity, or both.
3/ Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.
4/ Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, and the Federal Retirement Administration, U. S. Department of Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries.
5/ Fewer than 50 cases.
-- Indicates data not available.